

Marcia Crocker Noyes, Medical Librarian: The Shaping of a Career*

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the accomplishments of Marcia Crocker Noyes (1869-1946) in depth and examines how her unobtrusive, yet extremely influential, personality contributed to success in medical librarianship.

In the library of the state medical society of Maryland and in the Medical Library Association, this pioneer medical librarian acted as a revitalizing force, and thus was in part responsible for the survival and subsequent growth of both institutions. Perhaps as important as her concrete contributions to medical libraries was the legacy which Miss Noyes bequeathed to her colleagues. She not only shaped the vocation of medical librarianship, but also by her example, stressed the dedication to the future necessary for one to be termed a professional.

INTRODUCTION

MARCIA Noyes was fortunate to arrive in Baltimore in the 1890's, a decade when the climate of opinion was conducive to the growth of medical libraries. Rapid access to medical literature was becoming important by the end of the nineteenth century. The size of the medical community in Baltimore and, correspondingly, their needs, were constantly expanding. The amount of medical literature available was also increasing. Thus, there was a great need for a librarian to mediate between the doctors and their abundant resources. In 1894, just two years before Miss Noyes' employment at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Library, Johns Hopkins University

formally opened Baltimore's sixth medical school. This new institution was already famous, or perhaps even infamous, because of the faculty's innovative approach to medical education. The students at Hopkins were granted a revolutionary privilege—that of practicing clinical as well as studying theoretical medicine. Moreover, the inquisitive medical students and doctors furthered the development of medical libraries as an important adjunct to medical education and practice.

Partly due to the rapid growth of the medical community in Baltimore, the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland flourished. Another probable reason for its popularity was the participation of concerned physicians in a controversy raging in Congress in the late 1890's. The outcome of the Congressional hearings on the "Antivivisection Bill" was crucial to the future of medicine. A united group of doctors could do much to calm the fears of the public concerning animal cruelty and therefore quell this proposed legislation which would outlaw one of the more successful modes of medical research. Thus, the medical community of the city of Baltimore and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland both experienced a significant growth in the 1890's, a growth which was to benefit Baltimore's medical libraries, especially the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty.

Perhaps the greatest contributor to the development of the Medical Faculty Library was Dr. William Osler, a young member of the Faculty and the first Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Osler was as interested in the historical and bibliographic facets of medicine as he was in clinical practice. This famous bibliophile felt that in all three of the sectors of medicine the library was a necessary component. After moving from Philadelphia to Baltimore he greatly missed the

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excellent library of the College of Physicians. Although the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland was founded in 1830, it had not grown significantly since its origin. Dr. Osler was determined to rejuvenate the Faculty, and then to enrich the collection and improve the organization of its Library.

In 1891 William Osler began his campaign to improve the Faculty Library, and at this time he volunteered to serve on the Library Committee. Osler was elected President of the Faculty in 1896, and he proceeded at once to implement his various plans for improving the Library. In this year the innovative young doctor founded the Book and Journal Club to secure funds for the collection. Also in 1896 he managed to enlist the interest of a prominent Baltimore merchant, Frank Frick, to contribute a book fund and another fund establishing a reading room.

Osler felt, however, that the improvements in the Library should not be restricted to the financial category. The future of the Library could be skillfully shaped by an intelligent, dedicated, full-time medical librarian. For sixty years, until 1896, a member of the Faculty had served as Librarian. The Library collection was for many years small enough to be kept in the home of the current Librarian. During this time the Library journeyed from one temporary place of residence to another and had various physician Librarians. In 1896 the Faculty obtained an entire building to house its growing membership and Library. The collection, which at this time numbered over 7,000 volumes, not only required a new facility, but also a full-time Librarian to meet the increased demand for medical library services. For this job Dr. Osler selected Marcia Crocker Noyes (1).

EARLY LIFE

From the information available on Marcia Noyes' early life there is no indication that she had much exposure to or interest in the medical profession before 1896. The daughter of an accountant, town clerk, and tax collector, Marcia Crocker Noyes was born in Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1869, probably in December.¹ She was the youngest of Levi and

Catherine Noyes' four children. Miss Noyes attended Hunter College in New York City. Her interests in school were apparently not medically oriented; while attending Hunter College she toyed with the idea of becoming an artist or a dress designer. But these two vocations were too fanciful for Miss Noyes' conservative parents to accept.

After the death of her parents Marcia Noyes decided to pay an extended visit to her sister, Kitty Noyes Marshall, in Baltimore. Here she obtained a position as a relief worker for fifteen dollars a month at Enoch Pratt Free Library. She took the job, expecting to stay only until summer vacations were over, but remained at Pratt about three years.

While at Pratt, Miss Noyes learned two library skills which were later to prove invaluable. Her first assignment was stock-taking at the branch libraries, and later she became supervisor of cataloging for branch libraries. Evidently she was extremely efficient in her supervisory work, for in 1896 Dr. Bernard Steiner, head librarian at Pratt, recommended her to William Osler as a woman of executive talents (2) (Figure 1).

MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL FACULTY

Marcia Noyes was well aware of her lack of qualifications for the job of medical librarian. She described her situation by saying:

[I]n less than two weeks from the time I learned of the existence of the State's medical association, I was living on its top floor as its Librarian, on duty twenty-four hours a day and getting the training necessary for my job by working at it (3).

In 1896 the barriers to developing her career as a medical librarian seemed almost insurmountable. Many of the library patrons were hesitant to approach the young Librarian for reference aid. Miss Noyes claimed that the reluctant doctors "didn't know how hard-boiled I really was" (3). She overcame her initial alienation from the doctors by actively attending all of the Faculty functions, beginning this practice in 1896 with the dedication of the Frick reading room. Another problem

this time. The date of birth upon her grave marker in the Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore is simply 1869. I approximate that Marcia Noyes was born in December of 1869.

¹ According to a census taken in the village of Saratoga Springs, New York on June 22, 1870, Marcia Crocker Noyes was approximately five months old at



FIG. 1—Marcia Noyes soon after accepting the position at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Library.

which she had to overcome was that of inadequate library funds and staff. The Faculty was able to hire only one assistant for her during the first ten years of her employment,

and this unique person was a young West Indian janitor, Gustave Orville Caution (whom she hired "because she liked his name . . .") (3). To compensate for the scarcity of library assist-

ants, without adding significantly to the budget, Miss Noyes enticed two friends from Pratt to catalog in the evenings at twenty-five cents an hour. Despite her negligible staff and an annual salary of two hundred dollars Miss Noyes' job did have its non-monetary compensations—the principal one being her apartment built on top of the new building into which the Faculty moved in 1909. Miss Noyes was so delighted with her commodious new living quarters that she often referred to its uniqueness in being the first true penthouse in Baltimore.

Perhaps the greatest deficiency which she had to overcome was not within the Library; it was her own meager knowledge of medical terminology and literature. She described her inadequacies by saying:

I take no credit for special fitness for the position, except that I could fill the requisite that I must reside in the library building (4).

In a hurried attempt to gain familiarity with the medical literature Miss Noyes depended upon the tutelage of several members of the Faculty.

Dr. Osler constantly helped her understand more thoroughly the medical interests of the patrons with whom she dealt. In addition to a professional respect, a personal friendship developed between the two proprietors of medical literature. Osler often commemorated special occasions by sending Marcia Noyes flowers. In May of 1905 he complimented her with a bouquet, for he was leaving Johns Hopkins to accept the Regius Professorship at Oxford. Even after his departure from Baltimore, Osler remained a generous supporter of the Faculty Library and a devoted friend of Miss Noyes.

Marcia Noyes treasured Osler's professional advice; but perhaps his most valuable contribution to her career was not what he taught her about medical literature, but what he showed her of human motivation. She emulated his "instinctive tendency to give credit to others" (1). She is described as "this light-hearted unassuming woman who gives her assistants the credit when things go right and contrariwise, takes the blame when they don't" (3). That Marcia Noyes' effective executive manner was similar to that of Osler is not surprising; she served as his understudy, and she was undoubtedly infected with his mission to improve the medical library and by so doing to improve the quality of medical practice.

Her inexperience did not prevent Marcia Noyes from organizing the collection of the Faculty Library. In the year she was hired, 1896, this novice in medicine devised and implemented her own *Classification for Medical Literature*. This classification scheme utilizes the twenty-six capital letters of the alphabet to represent the major divisions of medicine and uses lower case letters to delineate subdivisions. As she devised it, the classification extends only to three letters. But a fourth letter may be added to the call number—thus giving greater specificity while keeping the classification code manageable. The system has not been revised since Miss Noyes' death, and it is now out of date, but the Noyes' Classification is still used at the Medical and Chirurgical Library for all original historical material.

During the fifty-year period with Miss Noyes as administrator, the Library grew and became financially secure. When Miss Noyes assumed her job in 1896, the Library consisted of 7,701 dusty old volumes. When she retired fifty years later, the Library collection numbered 65,000 volumes (exclusive of duplicates). Under Marcia Noyes the Library also approached financial security. By 1946, the time of Miss Noyes' retirement, she reported that the library had invested funds totaling ninety thousand dollars (5).

Another example of Miss Noyes' administrative ability, and one which is difficult to quantify, is the loyalty which she engendered in her staff. In the year of her retirement Marcia Noyes stated that the newest employee was hired fourteen years earlier and that person had been hired on a temporary basis.

Marcia Noyes' organizational prowess extended beyond the Library to the Faculty itself. Her administrative talents were invaluable in performing the roles of museum proprietor and executive secretary for the organization. She began her career as museum curator after the Faculty moved to its present location in 1909. For the museum she acquired curious and rare medical instruments, as well as portraits of Maryland's leading physicians.

When the Faculty reorganized in 1904 under the American Medical Association plan, Miss Noyes assumed the duties of secretary, but not until 1925 was she formally appointed its Executive Secretary. She directed the Faculty's move in 1909 to its present location. In the year-long campaign for funds which preceded

the move, Miss Noyes is described as "bossing the job and doing much of the work herself" (3). And she even adopted the vocation of gardener, planting flowers on the back lot of the Faculty as well as on the roof area off of her apartment. In summary, the many roles, unofficial as well as official, which she adopted during her fifty-year's tenure at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty made her essential to the proper functioning of the society.

Marcia Noyes seems to have acquired more duties at the Faculty as she grew older. Her boundless energy in later life is especially amazing as she had to contend with two physical handicaps. Earlier in life Miss Noyes had suffered a serious burn around the shoulder which continued to bother her in later life. Also, as she aged, she developed an increasingly painful back condition which required her to wear a heavy brace (6). But her enthusiasm for the activities of the Faculty was undaunted by her severe physical limitations.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Marcia Noyes' prodigious energy was not expended solely on her career of reviving the Faculty and its Library. She was instrumental in shaping the development of medical librarianship by helping to establish and maintain the Medical Library Association. Just two years after she came to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Library, Miss Noyes participated at Philadelphia in founding the Medical Library Association. Meeting on May 2, 1898, the eight charter members decided that, as its objective, the Association should foster medical libraries and promote the exchange of medical literature.

One basic activity of the Association was an exchange service. The Exchange enabled members to trade duplicates or little-used materials for items more useful in their collections. Early issues of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* often contained references to the Exchange as one of the most important functions of the Association.

On December 1, 1899, in Philadelphia, the Exchange was formally established under the direction of Dr. George Gould, one of the founders and first President of the Medical Library Association. The Exchange did not prosper in Philadelphia, and in 1900 was moved

to Baltimore to be placed under the capable direction of Marcia Noyes. It remained there until 1904 and during this time an enormous number of duplicates passed between libraries.

The first volume of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, issued in 1911, refers to the years 1900 to 1904 as the best period in the history of the Exchange. That William Osler was President of the Association from 1901 to 1903 is significant here; Miss Noyes explained:

[H]ad it not been for Dr. Osler's interest and enthusiasm, what would have happened to the [E]xchange in its early days is hard to say (7).

By 1904 the Faculty Library needed the space which the Exchange occupied in the Library's modest quarters. Marcia Noyes relinquished this aspect of her duties to Mr. Albert Tracy Huntington of the Kings County Library in Brooklyn where there were commodious quarters for the Exchange. Apparently because of mismanagement, the period between 1904 and 1909 was disastrous for the Exchange and, correspondingly, for the Association. Since no official journal existed between 1907 and 1911 to draw members together, the Exchange was during this period "the soul and heart of the Association. . . . Without it the Association would become moribund" (8). In a letter dated March 25, 1908, Ada Bunnell, then secretary of the Medical Library Association, informed Miss Noyes of the desperate situation:

[The] executive committee advises that [the] [E]xchange be given up unless more satisfactory financial arrangements can be made . . . there has been so much dissatisfaction with the management that many libraries have refused to pay their dues and of course the [E]xchange cannot be managed without money. It looks to me as though the Association would go to pieces unless some one will offer to take the [E]xchange and manage it properly so that members will again have some confidence in it (9).

Marcia Noyes was the "some one" who revived the Exchange. The Medical Faculty moved to its present quarters in 1909, and here space was available to house the surplus material. It was, however, in a critical state of desuetude and required several discouraging years to effect the proper metamorphosis. One probable reason for the steady improvement was the close relationship between the Manager of the Exchange, Marcia Noyes, and the

Treasurer of the Medical Library Association for 1910 and 1911, Dr. John Ruhrah. Like Osler, Ruhrah was a bibliophile as well as a clinician and was an avid patron and supporter of the Faculty Library. The combined efforts of Miss Noyes and Dr. Ruhrah were apparently as successful in solving problems with the Exchange as those of Miss Noyes and Dr. Osler earlier. The Exchange improved between 1909 and 1913, and actually began to thrive by late 1914 when Miss Noyes initiated separate mailings of monthly lists of materials in mimeographed form, rather than quarterly ones in the *Bulletin*. In the annual reports of the Manager of the Exchange, Marcia Noyes often intimated the dynamic effect which the successful Exchange had upon the Association. In July of 1916 she announced:

Numerically, the following tables show that the material sent out is double that of last year; but they cannot show the fine spirit of loyalty that is growing up among our members (10).

Miss Noyes maintained the position of Manager of the Exchange until 1926. In 1925 she and other members of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Exchange suggested that it be operated on a cash basis. After their suggestion was rejected, Miss Noyes reported that her organization could no longer retain the Exchange. The job of bartering several hundred books and serials a month had apparently become too time consuming. The Exchange which Marcia Noyes relinquished in 1926 for others to operate was not the moribund institution which she had undertaken to revive in 1909. By her constant enthusiasm and diligent management she had rescued the Exchange and the Association itself from the depths of apathy.

Marcia Noyes not only tackled the thorny problems of the Exchange, but she also helped to create a professional journal for medical librarians. In a period of twelve years the Medical Library Association attempted four times to establish an official periodical. Miss Noyes was associated with two of these attempts. She was not involved in the production of the first journal, *Medical Libraries*, which lasted from 1898 to 1902. The second short-lived journal, the *Bulletin of the Association of Medical Librarians*, 1902, was edited by Marcia Noyes, Dr. Henry Hurd of Baltimore,

and Mr. John Brownne, Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine. Apparently the *Bulletin* was managed for the most part by Miss Noyes because the mailing address at that time for communications to the editor was the address of the Faculty Library.

The third official periodical of the Association, the *Medical Library and Historical Journal*, which lasted from 1903 to 1907, assumed the major functions of the *Bulletin*. The editors of the *Journal*, Albert Tracy Huntington of Brooklyn and John Brownne of New York, agreed to publish all transactions and exchange lists of the Association free of charge. Since the goal of the new periodical was to foster communication between librarians, medical historians, and bibliophiles, Marcia Noyes hailed the *Journal* as "the fulfillment for our ideal for the *Bulletin*" (11).

But by 1906 the *Medical Library and Historical Journal* had ceased to provide the Medical Library Association members with current information on the activities of the organization. In the March 1906 *Journal* Mr. Huntington announced that:

Owing to the length of the original articles in this issue it has been found necessary to eliminate or greatly curtail the *Journal's* other regular departments (12).

The "Proceedings" and "Exchange Lists" of the Medical Library Association were two of the departments eliminated. Mr. Huntington evidently did not have time to manage the *Journal* properly. He was not only the Editor of the *Journal* and Manager of the Exchange, but he was also Secretary of the Medical Library Association (1903-1906), the Business Editor of the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, and Librarian of the Kings County Library. Because he lacked time and enthusiasm to manage his many endeavors successfully, the *Journal* was published irregularly, and thus could not consistently report the activities of the Association. The *Journal* ceased publication soon after the Association withdrew its endorsement in 1907.

The success of the fourth attempt to publish a professional periodical was due, as was the progress of the Exchange after 1909, to the combined efforts of Marcia Noyes and John Ruhrah. The first issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* appeared in July

1911, just two years after Miss Noyes had taken over as manager of the Exchange. She and Dr. Ruhrah maintained the joint editorship of the *Bulletin* until 1926. Because Ruhrah was the Treasurer of the Medical Library Association during the first years of the *Bulletin*, he could make certain that the dues of the members were reserved primarily for financing the new publication. Financial support and diligent editing explain the success of the *Bulletin* in the wake of three unsuccessful journals.

The official appreciation of the Association for the combined endeavor of Miss Noyes and Dr. Ruhrah in reviving the Exchange and creating the new *Bulletin* is directed primarily at Ruhrah. The 1912 "President's Address" in the *Bulletin* states:

... that the success of the past year's work is due entirely to our Treasurer, Dr. John Ruhrah, with the able assistance of the Manager of the Exchange, Miss Marcia C. Noyes (13).

Ironically, Ruhrah's account of the years between 1907 and 1912 differs substantially from the official one:

When I joined the Medical Library Association a good many years ago, it was almost on the rocks, and Miss Noyes and I were asked to take it over and see if we could not get it on its feet. I am very glad to say that Miss Noyes did take it over and did get it back on its feet. I was in the background . . . (14).

The early history of the Medical Library Association serves as a record of Marcia Noyes' unobtrusive, yet dynamic, influence upon that body. She simultaneously revived the Exchange and established a viable medical library journal, thus providing better service and communication to the members of the Association.

The members of the Association were grateful for her many efforts in developing an effective organization, and in 1934 they chose this pioneer medical librarian for their President. The selection was particularly significant since she was the first non-physician (or the "first unmedicated member") chosen for the office (15). Her election was innovative in a second sense because she was the first woman to be awarded the office of President. Although Miss Noyes' election did shatter the thirty-five year tradition of male, physician Presidents, it apparently did not radically alter the leadership structure within the Association, which was

already dominated by non-physician librarians. One medical librarian describes the period preceding Marcia Noyes' election in 1934 by saying:

There does not seem to be any evidence that in this period the physicians intimidated the librarians; on the contrary, one suspects, from a reading of the minutes and a slight knowledge of the vital personalities of these librarians, that it might have been the other way around (15).

As President, Marcia Noyes applied her talent for efficiency to the Medical Library Association. She was extremely proud that she carried into execution two important tasks which had been neglected by the previous Presidents. At the 1934 meeting of the Association in Baltimore, the Medical Library Association finally became incorporated and the first seal used by the Association was adopted. When Miss Noyes' one-year term as President expired, she was urged by the Association members to serve for another year. She firmly declined their invitation by saying, "We have a new constitution and organization. This is just the time for me to go out, with the old regime" (14). One member of the Association responded by suggesting:

[O]ur old guards have never constituted, and are unlikely ever to constitute, a regime, because we old dears are far too individualized ever to vote as a bloc (15).

Marcia Noyes certainly fits this description. She even refused to play bridge, since that game might involve getting a partner into difficulty. Instead, she preferred "a game in which her difficulties are visited on her alone" (16).

One of Miss Noyes' greatest desires was to write a history of the Medical Library Association, especially of the struggle in the early years to vitalize the organization. She planned to begin this project after she had quietly retired from the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty (14).

DEDICATION REWARDED

The members of the Faculty were effusive in their enthusiasm to honor Miss Noyes' fifty years of service to their organization. Dr. J. Albert Chatard was chairman of the committee in charge of arranging a celebration to honor her. The committee attempted to keep the celebration a secret; but since Miss Noyes was

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aware of all Faculty activities, the celebration could not be long concealed from her attention. More than 250 physicians attended the dinner and reception given for Miss Noyes on April 24, 1946. The reception included several speeches and the presentation of gifts to the guest of honor (Figure 2).

Marcia Noyes' only disappointment concerning the reception was that it was not held at the correct time. She had been appointed in November 1896; thus, the fifty-year commemoration of that date should have been held in November 1946. When she learned that the reception was planned for April, she was vehement in her request that the ceremony be

postponed until its proper time. Dr. Chatard, however, was even more vociferous in his demand that the reception be held in April as planned. Dr. Chatard was apparently aware of her failing health and he wanted to hold the reception while she was well enough to enjoy being the guest of honor. Dr. Chatard judged correctly; Marcia C. Noyes died on November 24, 1946.

Miss Noyes wished to have her funeral ceremony in her home, the Faculty building. On November 27, 1946, for the first time in the 116-year existence of the Faculty, a funeral was held within its quarters. Many doctors apparently felt a great respect for this pioneer



FIG. 2.—Marcia Noyes just prior to her retirement.

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medical librarian because approximately sixty physicians from all parts of Maryland were honorary pallbearers.

The members of the Medical Library Association decided in 1948 to commemorate the memory of Marcia Crocker Noyes, and in October of that year the Association's Committee for the Establishment of Awards recom-

mended that an outstanding achievement award in the field of medical librarianship be created and be named the "Marcia C. Noyes Award." Candidates for the award are usually considered every two years, but the award is presented only if a candidate and his contribution to the profession are distinctively outstanding. To date the award has been granted to sixteen

TABLE 1
RECIPIENTS OF THE MARCIA C. NOYES AWARD

Name	Date	Biographical information*
Eileen Roach Cunningham	1949	Librarian of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Library, Nashville, Tennessee. Promoted international cooperation in medical libraries.
James Francis Ballard	1951	Director of the Boston Medical Library. Created the <i>Boston Medical Library Classification</i> .
Mary Louise Marshall	1953	Librarian of the Tulane University Medical School Library, New Orleans, Louisiana. Teacher of medical bibliography.
Janet Doe	1954	First woman Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine. Editor of the first two editions of the <i>Handbook of Medical Library Practice</i> .
Harold Wellington Jones, M.D.	1956	Director, Army Medical Library, 1936-1945. Editor of the <i>MLA Bulletin</i> , 1941-1943.
William D. Postell	1958	Librarian and Professor of Medical Bibliography, Louisiana State University School of Medicine Library, New Orleans, Louisiana. Involved in international library programs.
Leslie Thomas Morton	1960	Librarian of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, England. Compiler of <i>Medical Bibliography</i> .
Frank Bradway Rogers, M.D.	1961	Director of the National Library of Medicine. Reorganized the materials and services of the Library; rejuvenated the <i>Index Medicus</i> .
Stanislaw Konopka, M.D.	1963	Director of the Central Medical Library, Warsaw, Poland. Founded and built a system of medical libraries in Poland.
Mildred McMillan Jordan	1964	Librarian of the A. W. Calhoun Library of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Educator in medical librarianship.
Thomas E. Keys	1966	Librarian of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. Contributed to medical history and medical education.
Gertrude L. Annan	1968	Librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine. Organized rare book collections, promoted the Medical Library Center of New York, and was coeditor of the third edition of the <i>Handbook of Medical Library Practice</i> .
Scott Adams	1969	Special assistant on the development of a World Science Information Center in the National Academy of Sciences. Former Deputy-Director of the National Library of Medicine.
Estelle Brodman, Ph.D.	1971	Librarian and Professor of Medical History, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri. Contributed to medical history, education for medical librarianship, and automation in medical libraries.
Thomas P. Fleming	1972	Librarian of the Columbia University School of Medicine. Instituted first course devoted entirely to medical librarianship.
Martin M. Cummings, M.D.	1973	Director of the National Library of Medicine.

* Institutional affiliations shown here are for the date on which the award was received unless otherwise indicated.

individuals who have significantly furthered the interests of medical librarianship (Table 1).

CONCLUSION

Thomas E. Keys, during his chairmanship of the Committee on Awards, described Marcia C. Noyes' accomplishments by saying:

The profession will always be in her debt, not only for her many contributions to the Association, but also for her gracious way of life which she was able to transmit to the librarians who came within her sphere . . . (17).

Perhaps this "way of life" which Marcia Noyes effectively conveyed to her colleagues can serve in answer to a current controversy in librarianship. At present much debate continues among medical librarians as to whether the desired professional status has been achieved. The existence or non-existence of professionalism depends upon one's definition of the term. If one accepts E. Croft Long's definition that professionalism has to do "with librarians' deep concern for the destiny of their vocation" (18), then the contributions of Marcia Noyes have certainly brought medical librarianship closer to the goals of professionalism. In the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and in the Medical Library Association this pioneer librarian acted as a revitalizing force, and thus was in part responsible for the survival and subsequent flowering of both institutions. The radical transformation of the collection, the improvement in the Library's financial situation, and the organizational growth of the Library during Miss Noyes' fifty years of service there evince her administrative competence. And her rectification of the Medical Library Association by adroitly managing its Exchange, editing its *Bulletin*, and attending to the details of incorporation further demonstrate Marcia Noyes' organizational talents.

Although Miss Noyes stubbornly insisted that she was not a professional woman (3), her professional attitude is obvious since she dedicated much of her life toward furthering medical libraries and librarianship. Eileen Cunningham's response upon receiving the Marcia C. Noyes Award is indicative of the legacy which Miss Noyes bequeathed to her colleagues:

Whatever measure of professional success I have is

due, in large part, to the interest, stimulation, advice, and support she extended to me, as to many other younger persons with whom she came into contact (19).

Thus, Marcia Noyes not only shaped the vocation of medical librarianship, but also, by her example, stressed the dedication to the future which is essential to achieving true professionalism. To Marcia Crocker Noyes a profession was more than a vocation—it was a way of life. She described her life by saying:

If I have accomplished anything, let that speak for me, as while making a living, I tried to make a life (20).

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